

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2016-17 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of January 23, 2017

WALK-IN AREAS

No reports again this week from the walk-in fields west of 1804 and down into the west side of Okobojo Creek.

REGISTRATION AREA

The foggy conditions late last week and into the weekend made it a little difficult for the hunters to see very far, several of the groups were able to harvest birds though despite the low visibility. The warmer temperatures have helped with getting the birds to fly out to feed much earlier than the week before with most hunters reporting seeing birds before noon. The access trails into most of the registration fields are in good condition, however with the predicted snow we are supposed to get this week some of the areas may see some drifting again.

The decoy loaner trailers have continued to see a lot of use on the weekends with the weekdays slowing down on people reserving them, hunters planning to make a trip out that need to reserve one of the two trailers can click on one of the links to either the black or the white loaner trailer on the Lower Oahe Program page to reserve one or to check on availability.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

No hunter reports from any of the pass shooting areas this week, since most of Lake Oahe has frozen over the birds have moved into open water areas below the dam.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

The birds flying out to feed west of Ft. Pierre has continued, with the striped green area west of Ft. Pierre continuing to see groups of hunters setting out decoys in the field and having some success. Access into the fields remains tough, with some hunters using a snowmobile or UTV down the designated trails to get their decoys out or pulling a sled out into the field with decoys and setting up. The birds have continued to fly East of Grey Goose Road on a regular basis through the solid and striped green areas, with some birds sitting in the fields the area has seen several groups of hunters setting out decoys and having some good success.

SUMMARY

The warmer temperatures has helped the hunters in all areas to see more birds earlier in the day however the fog made it difficult for them to see the birds coming so most were listening for them and calling in hopes of getting their attention. Access trails into most of the decoy only registration fields are in good shape, however the predicted snow this week may cause some drifting in some areas.

The women's goose hunt that took place in the Pierre area over the weekend had some nice weather and some birds that cooperated for the ladies. Most of the ladies were able to harvest a few birds, some for the first time ever making it a big success.